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Letter dated 27 April 2000 from the Chairman of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I should like to refer to Economic and Social Council decision 1999/256 of 27 July 1999, in particular paragraph (b) (i) approving the recommendation of the Commission that the Council include in its resumed organizational session consideration of any proposals regarding special procedures or mandates adopted at the annual session of the Commission.

The Commission on Human Rights adopted the following proposals regarding special procedures or mandates at its fifty-sixth session:

(a) In resolution 2000/82 entitled "Effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights", the Commission decided to merge the mandates of the independent expert on structural adjustment policies and the Special Rapporteur on the effects of foreign debt thus creating a post of an independent expert on structural adjustment and foreign debt;

(b) In resolution 2000/9 entitled "Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights" the Commission decided to appoint for a period of three years a special rapporteur whose mandate will focus on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living;

(c) In resolution 2000/10 entitled "The right to food" the Commission decided to appoint for a period of three years a special rapporteur on the right to food;

(d) In resolution 2000/61 entitled "Human rights defenders", the Commission decided to request the Secretary-General to appoint, for a period of three years, a special representative who shall report on the situation of human

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rights defenders in all parts of the world and on possible means to enhance their protection;

(e) In the annex to decision 2000/109, the Commission recommended a procedure for dealing with communications concerning human rights.

The annual report of the Commission on Human Rights will duly reflect that those proposals have already been acted upon, if they are adopted by the Council.

I would request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Economic and Social Council.

(*Signed*) Shambhu Ram **Simkhada**
Chairman of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission
on Human Rights